

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display device comprising:
a first plate having a forward surface and a rearward surface;
a second plate disposed rearwardly of and adjacent to the first plate, the second plate having a forward surface and a rearward surface;
a third plate disposed rearwardly of and adjacent to the second plate, the third plate having a forward surface and a rearward surface; and
biasing means for permitting relative movement of adjacent plates between a retracted position and an expanded position when the first plate is pulled generally in a forward direction and for biasing the plates toward the retracted position for returning the plates to the retracted position when the first plate is released, the plates in the retracted position being generally in registration with one another such that the rearward surface of the first plate faces the forward surface of the second plate, and the rearward surface of the second plate faces the forward surface of the third plate whereby generally only the forward surface of the first plate is exposed for viewing information to be displayed thereon from a position generally forward of the display device, and the plates in the expanded position oriented such that the forward surface of the first plate, the rearward surface of the second plate and the forward surface of the third plate are exposed for viewing information to be displayed thereon from a position generally forward of the display device.

2. A display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the first, second and third plates each have a first edge and a second edge generally at an opposite end relative to the first edge, the first edge of the first plate serving as a handle to pull the plates from the retracted position to the expanded position, the second edges of the first plate and the second plate being hingedly coupled to each other, and the first edges of the second plate and the third plate being hingedly coupled to each other to further facilitate movement of the plates between the retracted position and the expanded position.

3. A display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the biasing means includes at least one elastic member coupled to the plates.

4. A display device as defined in claim 3, wherein the at least one elastic member includes:

a first elastic member coupling the first plate to the second plate; and
a second elastic member coupling the second plate to the third plate.

5. A display device as defined in claim 3, wherein the at least one elastic means is a single elastic member coupling the first plate to the second plate, and coupling the second plate to the third plate.

6. A display device as defined in claim 2, wherein the first, second and third plates each have a third edge and a fourth edge generally at an opposite end relative to the third edge, the third and fourth edges generally extending between the first and second edges, and wherein the biasing means includes:

a first elastic member extending between the first plate and the second plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the first and second plates; and

a second elastic member extending between the second plate and the third plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the second and third plates.

7. A display device as defined in claim 2, wherein the first, second and third plates each have a third edge and a fourth edge generally at an opposite end relative to the third edge, the third and fourth edges generally extending between the first and second edges, and wherein the biasing means includes a single elastic member extending between the first plate, the second plate and the third plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the first, second and third plates.

8. A display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the third plate is a rearmost plate relative to the first plate, and further including means for attaching the third plate to a support surface.

9. A display device as defined in claim 8, wherein the attaching means includes adhesive disposed on the rearward surface of the third plate.

10. A display device as defined in claim 8, wherein the third plate is a rearmost plate relative to the first plate, and wherein the third plate includes at least one mounting section defining at least one hole for attaching the third plate to a support surface.

11. A display device as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
a fourth plate disposed rearwardly of and adjacent to the third plate, the fourth plate having a forward surface and a rearward surface; and
a fifth plate disposed rearwardly of and adjacent to the fourth plate, the fifth plate having a forward surface and a rearward surface, and wherein the plates in the retracted position being generally in registration with one another such that the rearward surface of the third plate faces the forward surface of the fourth plate, and the rearward surface of the fourth plate faces the forward surface of the fifth plate whereby generally only the forward surface of the first plate is exposed for viewing information to be displayed thereon from a position generally forward of the display device, and the plates in the expanded position being biased toward the retracted position and oriented such that the forward surface of the first plate, the rearward surface of the second plate, the forward surface of the third plate, the rearward surface of the fourth plate, and the forward surface of the fifth plate are exposed for viewing information to be displayed thereon from a position generally forward of the display device.

12. A display device as defined in claim 11, wherein the first, second, third, fourth and fifth plates each have a first edge and a second edge generally at an opposite end relative to the first edge, the first edge of the first plate serving as a handle to pull the plates from the retracted position to the expanded position, the second edges of the first plate and the second plate being hingedly coupled to each other, the first edges of the second plate and the third plate being hingedly coupled to each other, the second edges of the third plate and the fourth plate being hingedly coupled to each other, and the first edges of the fourth plate and the fifth plate being hingedly coupled to each other to further facilitate movement of the plates between the retracted position and the expanded position.

13. A display device as defined in claim 12, wherein the second edge of the fifth plate projects beyond the second edges of the first through fourth plates whereby a portion of the forward surface of the fifth plate projecting beyond said second edges is exposed for viewing information to be displayed thereon while the plates are in the retracted position.

14. A display device as defined in claim 11, wherein the biasing means includes at least one elastic member coupled to the plates.

15. A display device as defined in claim 14, wherein the at least one elastic member includes:

- a first elastic member coupling the first plate to the second plate;
- a second elastic member coupling the second plate to the third plate;
- a third elastic member coupling the third plate to the fourth plate; and
- a fourth elastic member coupling the fourth plate to the fifth plate.

16. A display device as defined in claim 14, wherein the at least one elastic means is a single elastic member coupling the first plate to the second plate, coupling the second plate to the third plate, coupling the third plate to the fourth plate, and coupling the fourth plate to the fifth plate.

17. A display device as defined in claim 12, wherein the first, second, third, fourth and fifth plates each have a third edge and a fourth edge generally at an opposite end relative to the third edge, the third and fourth edges generally extending between the first and second edges, and wherein the biasing means includes:

a first elastic member extending between the first plate and the second plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the first and second plates;

a second elastic member extending between the second plate and the third plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the second and third plates;

a third elastic member extending between the third plate and the fourth plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the third and fourth plates; and

a fourth elastic member extending between the fourth plate and the fifth plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the fourth and fifth plates.

18. A display device as defined in claim 12, wherein the first, second, third, fourth and fifth plates each have a third edge and a fourth edge generally at an opposite end relative to the third edge, the third and fourth edges generally extending between the first and second edges, and wherein the biasing means includes a single elastic member extending between the first plate, the second plate, the third plate, the fourth plate and the fifth plate at locations adjacent to the third and fourth edges of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth plates.

19. A display device as defined in claim 11, wherein the fifth plate is a rearmost plate relative to the first plate, and further including means for attaching the fifth plate to a support surface.

20. A display device as defined in claim 19, wherein the attaching means includes adhesive disposed on the rearward surface of the fifth plate.

21. A display device as defined in claim 19, wherein the fifth plate is a rearmost plate relative to the first plate, and wherein the fifth plate includes at least one mounting section defining at least one hole for attaching the fifth plate to a support surface.

22. A display device as defined in claim 1, wherein the first plate defines a projection serving as a handle for pulling the plates from the retracted position to the extended position.